

Good afternoon SPR Travel Basketball Registrants,

SPR is excited about the start of our 2022-2023 Travel Basketball Season! We wanted to send an update with important information for evaluations this Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and our process for assigning teams. We appreciate you taking the time to review this information, so everyone is prepared for evaluations and understands the expectations of this program.

**NEW SCHEDULE FOR EVALUATIONS:** Due to scheduling conflicts for some divisions, we have adjusted the evaluation schedule as listed below. Please note: *only the girls divisions have been impacted by these changes*. Boys division times will remain the same as originally scheduled:

- **Date:** Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Location:** Saco Community Center Gym
- **Girls 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 2:00pm to 2:45pm
- **Boys 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 3:00pm to 3:45pm
- **Boys 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 4:00pm to 4:45pm
- **Girls 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 5:00pm to 5:45pm

**What to Expect at Evaluations:** Please arrive at least ten minutes prior to the evaluation start time. Upon arrival, please bring your child to check-in inside the gym with SPR Programmer Meg Gribbin. All players will be given a name tag to be worn on their shirt for the duration of the tryout for identification purposes. The tryouts will include 45 minutes of skills evaluations led by Meg or another SPR Coach. **Please note: these are closed tryouts.** *Parents will not be able to stay in the gym after checking in their child* - please feel free to wait in the lobby or your vehicle until tryouts are complete for that division.

**Skills that will be Evaluated:** Our evaluation team includes full-time staff for Saco Parks and Recreation that have decades of experience in basketball programs and working with this age group. We are looking for players who are able to demonstrate basketball skills including but not limited to: dribbling, layups, shooting, passing, rebounding, and defending. We will also be looking for players that show good listening skills, coachability, positive attitudes, and good teamwork.

**Communicating Results of Evaluation:**

- Team sizes typically range from 10 to 12 players per division, and can vary based on the discretion of SPR staff. Due to the high number of registrations in both of our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions, we anticipate that around 50 percent of current registrants will not be assigned to teams after evaluations.
- SPR will finalize all team rosters no later than Wednesday 11/2 – these will be posted under Team Information and an email will be sent to the one in your household account.
- If your child is not selected for a team, you will receive an email letting you know. These players are still able to join our recreation level teams and your account will be credited the difference in registration fees. If you are looking for specific feedback about skills suggested for your child to continue working on, please email Meg Gribbin at [mgribbin@sacomaine.org](mailto:mgribbin@sacomaine.org).

- Please [click here](#) for more information regarding our policy on evaluations and cuts.

**Attendance Expectations:** If your child is assigned to a team, please keep in mind that this is a travel program and requires a high level of commitment. Each team will have two weeknight practices and 1-2 weekend games. Attendance at practices and games is mandatory by all participants throughout the season, and attendance records are kept. Only illness will be considered an excused absence and these absences must be communicated to coaches. Players who make the team have likely been given a spot that someone else was not, so the expectation is that they are present and engaged for all team activities. Please also note that anyone who makes a team and later decides to leave the program will not be issued any sort of refund.

**Coaches:** We currently have parents who have volunteered to coach in 3 of our 4 divisions, should their children make the team. Our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> boys division does not have a coach yet. We will still hold evaluations and release a roster, however please note that this team will not begin practices and games until we have a volunteer coach in place. If we do not get a volunteer coach in place by Thursday 11/3, we will not be able to enter the travel league and all players will receive a refund. If you are interested in coaching, please email Meg directly at [mgribbin@sacomaine.org](mailto:mgribbin@sacomaine.org).

Thank you for your attention to these updates. Our goal with this communication is to make sure everyone has clear expectations about this program. If anything in this update has led you or your child to reconsider your registration in this program, please email [parksandrec@sacomaine.org](mailto:parksandrec@sacomaine.org) no later than Friday 10/28 to be eligible for a refund of your evaluation fee. For other questions or concerns, please email Meg Gribbin at [mgribbin@sacomaine.org](mailto:mgribbin@sacomaine.org).

We look forward to a great season!

Saco Parks and Recreation